

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056174
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 COME-00 INT-05 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /138 R

DRAFTED BY L:M B FELDMAN:LHS

APPROVED BY S/S:DANDERSON

ARA - MR. MCNEIL

OES/OFA - MR. BUSBY

INR/DDR/RGE - MR. SMITH

NSC - MR. PASTOR (INFO)

COMMERCE - MR. BEASLEY (INFO)

INTERIOR - MR. ELLIOTT (INFO)

NSC - MR. INDERFURTH

-----112689 040423Z /20

O 040314Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, EFIS, NL, UE

SUBJECT: MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

REF: (A) CARACAS 2009, (B) CARACAS 1701, (C) CARACAS 1639,
(D) STATE 40160

1. DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED THAT GOV AND NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
APPARENTLY HAVE RESOLVED THEIR MARITIME BOUNDARIES DISPUTE.

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THIS DEVELOPMENT SHOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR EARLY CONCLUSION
OF A U.S.-GOV MARITIME BOUNDARY TREATY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO
THE POSITION OF EITHER VENEZUELA OR THE NETHERLANDS. FOR
OBVIOUS REASONS WE WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE SUCH AN AGREEMENT
IN TIME FOR POSSIBLE SIGNATURE ON THE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S VISIT TO CARACAS ON MARCH 28-29, BUT TO AVOID ANY
POSSIBLE IMPACT OF A U.S.-GOV AGREEMENT ON THE GOV-

NETHERLANDS AGREEMENT, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE LATTER COULD BE PUBLISHED BEFORE CONCLUSION OF THE U.S.-GOV AGREEMENT.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU INVITE GOV TO SEND APPROPRIATE EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON THE WEEK OF MARCH 13 FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON A MARITIME BOUNDARY LINE AND THE TEXT OF A TREATY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE BRIEFED FULLY ON TERMS OF GOV AGREEMENT WITH NETHERLANDS ANTILLES BUT WOULD TREAT THAT BRIEFING AS CONFIDENTIAL. ON THE FACTS AS WE NOW UNDERSTAND THEM, I.E., THAT DUTCH HAVE GIVEN FULL EFFECT TO AVES IN CONSTRUCTING EQUI-DISTANCE LINE IN THE NORTH AND THAT U.S. WILL HAVE NO MARITIME BOUNDARY WITH THE DUTCH ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF VENEZUELA, WE WOULD EXPECT THE U.S.-VENEZUELA BOUNDARY GENERALLY TO FOLLOW THE FISHERIES LINE PUBLISHED BY THE U.S. LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SIMPLIFICATION, AND MINOR ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE IN THE SOUTH IN ORDER TO CALCULATE EQUIDISTANCE LINE USING VENEZUELAN, RATHER THAN DUTCH, TERRITORY AS BASEPOINTS. ONCE WE HAVE HAD A THOROUGH DISCUSSION, BOTH SIDES WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE TO CONCLUDE A TREATY IN TIME FOR SIGNATURE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

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3. IN EXTENDING THIS INVITATION YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO GOV THAT AFTER THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, THE U.S. WILL WISH TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE DUTCH TO ENSURE THAT THE NETHERLANDS DOES NOT PERCEIVE THE U.S.-VENEZUELAN BOUNDARY AGREEMENT AS PREJUDICIAL TO ITS LEGAL POSITION. IF SUCH COMPLICATION SHOULD ARISE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR U.S. AND VENEZUELA TO DEFER CONCLUSION OF OUR AGREEMENT SO AS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF SUCCESSFUL GOV NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. CHRISTOPHER

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